



The Official Newsletter of the  
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*"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "*

*"GarryOwen"*

As I sit at the keyboard on this 5th day of the New Year, like many I wonder what lies ahead of us in 2011. The newly elected members of the Congress took their oaths of office this morning and we have high hopes that the business of the people will start moving forward again. Computer glitches in Copperas Cove have raised havoc with the Saber timetable and even as I pen this article the November/December issue hasn't reached my doorstep. I know that Dennis and the rest of the team are working diligently to rectify this situation and we need to reflect on how hard he, Lorinda and Martha work to make our membership fruitful. They are to be commended for their dedication and service.

This Veterans Day report comes from the 5-7 Association President and former Battalion Commander MG (Ret) Maury Edmonds with a little bit of help from Karl Haartz. Over eighty 5-7 Garry Owen veterans and families gathered in Washington over Veterans Day to participate in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Wall. Bill Purdy, Willie Gore, and Ray Helton had the honor of laying the Wreath, following the long-standing precedent of selecting troopers who had never done it before. Also on Veterans Day, twelve other 5-7 troopers gathered in Bloomfield, New Mexico to attend the dedication of a wonderful Memorial to SGT Chris (Shakey) Keffalos built on the grounds of Bloomfield High School. The Memorial project was spearheaded by Phillip Satdgna, Chris' classmate and friend and, currently, the school football coach. "Shakey's Hill", the awardwinning documentary depicting the 1970 fight to capture NVA weapons and ammo in Cambodia was shown on the Military Channel the following day. Chris Keffalos, who discovered the first of 59 large bunkers filled with weapons, was killed in that fight.

Thank you sir for this report and the continuing dedication that you and your organization show to not

only our RVN veterans but to the support offered to the 5th Squadron in the War on Terror. By now the 5th Squadron is back in Iraq, please keep these and all of our gallant warriors in your thoughts and prayers. Karl also sends out this warning to veterans. An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with the VA in any way.

HREF="<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>" Thanks for this important notice Karl.

Top Flanders sends in this advance planning notice regarding an upcoming A 2-7 reunion. A Company 2-7 veterans from 1965-1968 are planning another reunion in Columbus, Georgia during the last 2 weeks of October. The probable dates are from the 18th-21st. it will be similar to the one we held three years ago, at Columbus and Fort Benning. The hotels and exact dates as well as prices, events, and additional necessary info will be furnished in an upcoming article but please start your planning now. You may contact ISG Flanders at <[s.flanders@comcast.net](mailto:s.flanders@comcast.net)> for further information and to let him know of your interest.

A timely update from the War on Terror. Friday, December 17, 2010 JSS India - Iraqi Army and Kurdish Soldiers patrolled alongside their U.S. counterparts, cautious of their surroundings, on the lookout for anything suspicious. Without hesitation, rifles went to the ready - silent communication that told each Soldier exactly what to do next. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas, conducted dismounted movement training and infantry battle drills and tactics with Iraqi Army and Kurdish Security Forces at Joint Security Station India in northern Iraq earlier this month.

"This training is to help organize them in the way they conduct their mission," said SFC Derek Wood, a platoon sergeant assigned to Company A, 2-7th Cavalry. "During our combined dismounted movement training, they will learn how to properly react to contact and move on the enemy."

Reacting to the training scenario, combined Iraqi Security Forces patrolled their post, halting at the sound of gunfire. In the distance, notional enemy forces fired the simulated rounds from a parked truck. The Iraqi and Kurdish soldiers hit the ground, and within a moment's time, a team of soldiers disappeared from sight only to later show up closer to the objective.

"When we get positive identification of the enemy, we all get on line and maintain security in the area. Then a group of soldiers moves around closer to the enemy so we can corner him and take him down," said Wood, a native of Pearl City, Hawaii. "Our goal is not for them to just open fire on the enemy as they traditionally do, but to gain positive identification and actually assess the situation."

The ISF took the lead from their American counterparts, who observed the training to ensure the Iraqi soldiers had proper positioning, and when given the signal, assaulting the objective, searching the vehicle and detaining the enemy. "The soldiers that took part in this training are learning really well," said PFC Dominic Vaughn, a Company A infantryman from Fort Worth, Texas. "They'll be able to train new Iraqi soldiers on dismounted patrol movement."

Soldiers of Company B, 2-7th Cavalry also demonstrated to the Iraqi noncommissioned officers at JSS India the proper ways to high crawl, low crawl; conduct three to five second rushes, and individual movement techniques. SGT Roberto Garcia of Company B, led the team of ISF tactical movement instruction, focusing on individual, team, and squad movement techniques, and by the end of the class, said his students were familiarized to the training. "It's important for them to understand how to move

properly and get to cover while fighting and providing security," said Garcia, a native of Plano, Texas. "I was able to refine their skills so they can go back and train their units. "This training provides structure and stability, and if they understand the roles of each position, then they'll understand the big picture," he explained. Iraqi soldiers cheered as their fellow soldiers hit the ground making their way to the designated safety area.

The tough, dirty training demonstrated for the Iraqi soldiers the techniques for necessary for survival in combat. "It's important for the (ISF) to move effectively when they go out on their missions, and if something were to happen, they will be able to survive by applying these moving techniques," said SSG Eric Ortiz, an infantry squad leader assigned to Company B. "They're becoming more proficient as soldiers, and they're gaining more knowledge and motivation" said Ortiz, a native of Cayey, Puerto Rico.

The Iraqi soldiers also practiced different movement formations, learning which tactics and techniques to use while patrolling or reacting to enemy contact. "I think it's good to learn from the Americans," said SGT Khairy Majeed, an infantryman assigned to the 12th Brigade, 2nd IA Div, from Shingal, Iraq. "We're learning their techniques and how to train for the battlefield. What we learn here we can use to defeat the enemy." The combined efforts of 4th AAB, 1st Cavalry Division units operating at JSS India are in support of U.S. Division - North's mission to provide advisory and assistance support to Iraqi and Kurdish security forces as part of Operation New Dawn. This article was written by SPC. Angel Washington, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade Public Affairs and provided by our website manager - Jim SAVAGE.

Rolando Salazar, a former VP in our Association gives this report. In September, I went to the 2-7 Reunion in Franklin, Tennessee. It was a great success. At the banquet dinner, a presentation was made by a professor from a college in Ohio who saw the movie, We Were Soldiers Once and noticed that not much was said about the Battle at LZ Albany. He felt the story should be told and worked several years with his students to produce a documentary called A Walk in the Sun--The Battle of LZ Albany. They showed the movie at the dinner and everyone was spell-bound. It is an excellent piece of work and we were all given a DVD of the film. Bud Alley, HHC, 1965 did a great job in organizing, planning and executing the reunion.

CSM Washington the current Command Sergeant Major for 4-7 Cavalry at Camp Hovey, Korea passes on some personnel updates. After a number of changes the new Squadron Commander is LTC Michael A. Adams effective 13 December 2010. Sometimes we forget that a unit of the 7th Cavalry stands ready to do battle in Korea, if ever the ball drops.

Military.com reported today (6 Jan) that the Pentagon inspector general says the Army cut corners when testing body armor used by U.S. troops. In a report issued Wednesday, the watchdog agency says service officials did not consistently enforce -- and at times lowered -- ballistic testing requirements for protective vests that cost U.S. taxpayers \$434 million. Taking shortcuts around the testing standards means the Army has only limited assurance the vests met what the contract required, the report says. The Army has agreed with an inspector general's recommendation to determine whether a recall of any of the critical battlefield gear is necessary. The body armor used by most American forces consists of a ballistic vest with two large, especially hardened ceramic plates that protect most of the upper body from enemy bullets and shrapnel. I continue to be amazed that some chair warming SOB's play games with the lives of our warriors. How do these people get into positions that hold that level of authority? I hope that Secretary Gates sends a strong message to these REMF's.

In case you missed this. Police in Delaware searched for clues Monday in the death of John Wheeler, III, a former Army officer who served in Republican administrations and helped lead efforts to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington. Wheeler, the son of a decorated Army officer, was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a veteran of the Vietnam war. He was the first chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and led the multimillion-dollar fundraising effort to create the memorial on Washington's National Mall. Fund founder and President Jan Scruggs said Wheeler dedicated himself to ensuring that service members were given the respect they deserve. "I know how passionate he was about honoring all who serve their nation, and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice," Scruggs said in a statement released Monday. My thoughts are that without the dream of Jan Scruggs and the passion of guys like Wheeler, our Wall never would have been built.

I received an inquiry from Mike Christy who happens to be a writer/producer and a former company commander in 1-12th in 1970. I had contacted several of the people in your association notably Kevin Perrier and Jim Brigham months ago about the project which has now changed in scope and now needs to be taken a step further, We are developing a Vietnam docudrama similar to Band of Brothers and The Pacific. We want to find a platoon within a rifle company with particular emphasis on a squad. The audience will get to know each character in the squad with one emerging as the star. This is in the early stages and what I need to do right away is to talk to as many individuals that were in the 7th Cav. Beginning with Operation Pegasus (Khe Sanh), through Tet `68 in Hue and on into the A Shau. Pegasus is not as essential as Tet and A Shau but it would be a great way to introduce the characters and by the time they get to Hue, they will each have been defined clearly. I expect there will be KIA's and WIA's, DEROSES, R&R's and the occasional FNG's and would appreciate any help you could give me and soon as possible. Mike can be reached at either (818) 985-6822 or <michaelchristy@ roadrunner.com>. Thank you Mike, this sounds like a great opportunity for one of our 7th Cavalry Rifle Companies to become involved in.

With that I close this edition of your 7th Cavalry News, please send me some stories. GarryOwen from Michigan.

*Bob Anderson  
Boots & Saddles Staff Writer  
The 7th United States Cavalry Association*